

Message Text

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ANKARA PASS NIMETZ PARTY

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TAGS: MASS, PINT, NATO, GR, TU, US

SUBJECT: FY 1979 SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR GREECE AND TUR-
KEY; SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY BEFORE HIRC

1. SECRETARY VANCE, DURING FEB 21 TESTIMONY BEFORE HIRC,
PRESENTING ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED FY 1979 SECURITY
ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION, WAS ASKED TWO QUESTIONS CONCERNING
US POLICY IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. FOLLOWING IS DEPT-
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OFF'S INFORMAL RECORD OF THOSE EXCHANGES.

BEGIN TEXT OF INFORMAL RECORD.

Q: HAS THE ADMINISTRATION DECIDED NOT TO PRESS FOR AP-
PROVAL OF TURKISH DCA?

A: NO. AS YOU KNOW, THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE CONGRESS. THERE WILL BE HEARINGS ON THE WHOLE QUESTION OF THE TWO DCA'S, I BELIEVE, IN MARCH, AND THE SITUATION WILL BE FULLY REVIEWED AT THAT TIME. IN THE MEANTIME, OUR POSITION REMAINS THAT IN PRINCIPLE WE FAVOR THE AGREEMENT, AND WE WILL HAVE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE WHOLE SITUATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ON THE QUESTION OF MOVING AHEAD ON THAT AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR THAT REVIEW WILL BE IN MARCH, IN THE

HEARINGS BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE AND IN THE HEARINGS TO BE HELD IN THE SENATE. I SHOULD ADD THAT WE WILL BE WATCHING VERY CAREFULLY THE PROPOSALS WHICH WE EXPECT WILL BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN THAT AREA.

Q: DO YOU AGREE WITH COMMON VIEW THAT NATO DEFENSES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN ARE IN SHAMBLES, DUE TO THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTES AND TO THE EMBARGO ON ARMS SALES TO TURKEY. AND IN YOUR VIEW HAS THE EMBARGO BEEN AT ALL HELPFUL IN PROMOTING A SOLUTION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN?

A: I WOULDN'T DESCRIBE IT AS A "SHAMBLES", BUT THERE ARE CLEARLY SERIOUS PROBLEMS THAT EXIST, IN PART DUE TO THE ARMS SALES OR MILITARY SITUATION. OBVIOUSLY WE ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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FOLLOWING THAT SITUATION WITH GREAT INTEREST AND CARE. INSOFAR AS WHAT WILL BE DONE, THE QUESTION WILL BE TAKEN UP WHEN I AM BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE IN MARCH, AND I AM HOPEFUL WE WILL HAVE A BETTER VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AT THAT TIME. YOU ASKED ONE OTHER QUESTION, WHICH IS WHETHER THE ARMS EMBARGO HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE. I SUPPOSE ONE HAS TO MAKE A SUBJECTIVE JUDGMENT ON THAT QUESTION, BUT I THINK THE EMBARGO DID HAVE AN EFFECT IN THE AREA. THE QUESTION NOW ARISES, IN LIGHT OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED, SHOULD IT BE CONTINUED. END TEXT.

2. WHEN ASKED LATER WHAT THE DEPARTMENT'S CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES WERE FOR THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION, THE SECRETARY LISTED, "NOT IN RANK ORDER BUT AS OUR PRINCIPAL ISSUES OF CONCERN," THE FOLLOWING: PANAMA CANAL, SALT, MIDEAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA, DOMESTIC ENERGY LEGISLATION, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE, RESTRAINTS ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRAFFIC. VANCE

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